



Range Review

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National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA

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Thank You

to all the producers who participated in our recent surveys. The results you requested are in this issue.

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WYOMING CALF PRICE REACHES RECORD HIGH

The *Index of Prices Received* by farmers and ranchers in Wyoming for agriculture commodities sold during August was 128 percent of the 1990-1992 base. The index was down 1 point (1 percent) from July, but up 13 points (11 percent) from last year.

The All Livestock Index was down 2 points (1 percent) from last month but up 23 points (19 percent) from last year. Prices for cows, steers and heifers, sheep, and lambs were lower than in July while calves were slightly higher. All livestock prices were still well above last year at this time. Cow prices were \$11.20 above August 2003. Steer and heifer prices were down \$3.00 from July, but \$19.30 higher than August 2003. Calf prices reached a new record high at \$140.00 per hundredweight, \$2.00 higher than in July and \$34.00 higher than last year. Lamb prices were down \$2.00 from July, but \$8.80 above August 2003.

The All Crops Index was up 6 points (6 percent) from July, but down 3 points (3 percent) from last year. The drop from last year was the result of a large drop in hay prices from August 2003. Prices were slightly lower than last month for most crops. Corn was down 15 cents, dry beans were down 30 cents, and wheat was off 30 cents from the July average. Prices for alfalfa hay were up \$2.00 from July, while other hay increased \$1.00. Alfalfa hay averaged \$72.00 per ton in August, \$12.00 below August 2003. Other hay prices, at \$66.00 per ton, were down \$11.00 from last year.

The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall indexes.

UNITED STATES: The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in August at 120, based on 1990-92=100, is 4 points (3 percent) below the July Index. Declines occurred in both the Crop Price Index and the Livestock Price Index. The Crop Index, declined 2 points (2 percent) from July while the Livestock Index decreased 6 points (5 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for lettuce, tomatoes, strawberries, and cantaloup. Lower prices were received for broilers, soybeans, dairy, and corn. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of tobacco, cattle, grapes, and sweet corn offset decreased marketings of wheat, hay, dairy, and broilers.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 11 points (10 percent) from August 2003. The Food Commodities Index declined 3 points (2 percent) from last month to 124. The index stands 14 points (13 percent) above August 2003.

An updated forecast based on September 1 conditions indicates Wyoming sugarbeet production will be larger than last year. The sugarbeet production forecast is up 4 percent from last month and is 3 percent higher than last year.

Sugarbeet producers intended to harvest 35,500 acres, unchanged from the previous month. The expected average yield was 21.8 tons per acre, up 0.8 tons per acre from the August 1 forecast but 0.5 tons less than the 2003 yield. Total production was expected to be 774,000 tons, the largest since 2001.

The following forecasts were carried forward from earlier months. Based on August 1 conditions, **barley** production was expected to total 6.23 million bushels, which would be down 13 percent from last year’s crop but 33 percent above 2002. **Winter wheat** production was expected to total 3.51 million bushels, 10 percent lower than last year’s 3.92 million bushel crop. **Dry bean** production in 2004 was expected to be 594,000 hundredweight, a decrease of 8 percent from last year, based on conditions as of August 1. The August 1 forecast for **alfalfa hay**

was 1.13 million tons, down 28 percent from last year and down 2 percent from 2002. Production of **all other hay** is expected to be 750,000 tons, 3 percent below last year. **All hay** production was expected to total 1.88 million tons, down 19 percent from 2003 but up 17 percent from 2002.

United States: Corn production is forecast at 11.0 billion bushels, up fractionally from last month and 8 percent above 2003. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 149.4 bushels per acre, up 0.5 bushel from August and 7.2 bushels above last year. If realized, both production and yield would be the largest on record.

Sugarbeet production is forecast at 28.5 million tons, up 1 percent from the August forecast but 7 percent below last year's production. Growers in the 12 sugarbeet-producing States expect to harvest 1.33 million acres. This is marginally lower than the August estimate and 2 percent below last year. The yield is forecast at 21.5 tons per acre, 0.1 ton above the August forecast but 1.2 tons below 2003.



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Crop	Planted		Harvested		Yield per Harvested Acre			Production		
	2003	2004	2003	Sept. 2004	2003	Sept. 2004	2003	Sept. 2004	04/03 %	
	1,000 Acres		1,000 Acres		1,000					
WYOMING										
Corn-Grain (bu) 1/	80	100	50	65	129	2/	6,450	2/		
Winter Wheat (bu)	160	150	145	135	27	26	3,915	3,510	3/ 90%	
Spring Wheat (bu)	8	7	6	5	25	4/	150	4/		
Oats (bu)	60	50	23	13	46	4/	1,058	4/		
Barley (bu)	90	85	75	70	95	89	7,125	6,230	3/ 87%	
Sugarbeets (tons)	35.0	37.0	33.7	35.5	22.3	21.8	752	774	103%	
Dry Beans (cwt)	30.0	28.0	29.0	27.0	22.20	22.00	645	594	3/ 91%	
Alfalfa Hay (tons)	--	--	650	490	2.40	2.30	1,560	1,127	3/ 72%	
Other Hay (tons)	--	--	550	500	1.40	1.50	770	750	3/ 97%	
All Hay (tons)	--	--	1,200	990	1.94	1.90	2,330	1,877	3/ 81%	
UNITED STATES										
Corn-Grain (bu) 1/	78,736	80,968	71,139	73,377	142.2	149.4	10,113,887	10,960,717	108%	
Winter Wheat (bu)	44,945	43,450	36,541	34,825	46.7	42.8	3/ 1,707,069	1,489,408	3/ 87%	
Spring Wheat (bu)	13,840	13,677	13,429	13,210	39.7	41.2	3/ 532,820	544,535	3/ 102%	
Oats (bu)	4,601	4,220	2,224	1,938	65.0	66.0	3/ 144,649	127,950	3/ 112%	
Barley (bu)	5,299	4,666	4,688	4,152	58.9	65.7	3/ 276,087	272,824	3/ 99%	
Sugarbeets (tons)	1,365.4	1,349.8	1,347.9	1,325.6	22.7	21.5	30,583	28,547	93%	
Dry Beans (cwt)	1,406.1	1,360.4	1,346.9	1,301.1	16.72	16.39	3/ 22,515	21,323	3/ 95%	
Alfalfa Hay (tons)			23,578	22,226	3.24	3.48	3/ 76,307	77,264	3/ 101%	
Other Hay (tons)	--	--	39,764	39,363	2.03	2.15	3/ 80,816	84,499	3/ 105%	
All Hay (tons)	--	--	63,342	61,589	2.48	2.63	3/ 157,123	161,763	3/ 103%	

1/Corn planted for all purposes, harvested for grain.

2/Forecasts no longer made. Final estimates released January 2005.

3/Forecasts carried forward from August. Year-end estimates released September 30.

4/Forecasts no longer made. Year-end estimates released September 30.

EXPECTED SUGARBEET PRODUCTION UP 3 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 3 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of1,000 or more head totaled 9.85 million head on August 1, 2004. The inventory was 3 percent above August 1, 2003 but 3 percent below August 1, 2002.

Placements in feedlots during July totaled 1.72 million, 14 percent below 2003 and 7 percent below 2002. Net placements were 1.66 million. During July, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 440,000, 600-699 pounds were 325,000, 700-799pounds were 499,000, and 800 pounds and greater were456,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during July totaled 1.93 million, 15 percent below 2003 and 12 percent below 2002.

Other disappearance totaled 58,000 during July, 3 percent below 2003 but 29 percent above 2002.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN FROM LAST YEAR

Commercial red meat production in *Wyoming* during July 2004 totaled 500,000 pounds. This was down 2 percent from the previous month and down 8 percent from July 2003. Commercial red meat production excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Seven hundred **cattle** were slaughtered in July, unchanged from July 2003. Total live weight was 815,000 pounds, up 3 percent from July 2003. Average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,194 pounds up 24 pounds from last year.

A total of 300 **hogs** and **pigs** were processed, down 50 percent from last year. Total live weight, at 75,000 pounds, was down 47 percent from July 2003. Average live weight of hogs slaughtered was 257 pounds, up 10 pounds from last year.

One hundred **sheep** and **lambs** were processed in July, once again unchanged from July 2003. Live weight totaled 21,000 pounds, up 5 percent from last year. Average live weight of sheep and lambs slaughtered was 142 pounds, up 7 pounds from a year earlier.

January to July red meat production, at 3.4 million pounds, was 6 percent below last year’s total of 3.6 million pounds.

CATTLE ON FEED: 1000+ CAPACITY FEEDLOTS, SELECTED STATES AND UNITED STATES, AUGUST 1, 2003-2004 1/

State	On Feed July 1, 2004	Place- ments July 2004	Market- ings July 2004	Other Disapp. July 2004	On Feed Aug. 1, 2004	On Feed Aug. 1, 2003
Thousand Head						
CO	940	150	205	5	880	860
KS	2,090	520	475	15	2,120	2,180
NE	1,850	310	405	5	1,750	1,570
TX	2,760	395	470	15	2,670	2,690
Other States	2,477	345	371	18	2,433	2,290
U.S.	10,117	1,720	1,926	58	9,853	9,590

1/ Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better.

UNITED STATES: **Commercial red meat production** for the United States totaled 3.71 billion pounds in July, down 8 percent from the 4.05 billion pounds produced in July 2003.

Beef production, at 2.10 billion pounds, was 14 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.79 million head, down 15 percent from July 2003. The average live weight was up 14 pounds from the previous year, at 1,239 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.58 billion pounds, down slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.09 million head, slightly below July 2003. The average live weight was unchanged from the previous year, at 262 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 14.2 million pounds, was down 10 percent from July 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 220,800 head, 8 percent below last year. The average live weight was 128 pounds, down 3 pounds from July a year ago.

January to July 2004 commercial red meat production was 26.0 billion pounds, down 4 percent from 2003. Accumulated beef production was down 9 percent from last year, veal was down 11 percent, pork was up 3 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 2 percent.

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AG WAGE RATES UP FROM LAST YEAR

WYOMING: The tri-state hired labor force on farms and ranches during the week July 11-17, 2004 was up 10 percent from a year ago. During this period, 34,000 hired workers were working on farms and ranches in the Northern Rocky Mountain Region which includes **Wyoming**, Montana, and Idaho. The total excludes agricultural service workers. The number of hired workers a year earlier was 31,000. Of the 34,000 hired workers, 24,000 were expected to work for 150 days or more and 10,000 were expected to work 149 days or less compared with 22,000 and 9,000 last year. The average number of hours worked during the survey week was 47.8 compared with 46.7 last July.

The average wage rate for all hired workers in the tri-state labor force during the survey week was \$8.23 per hours, up 60 cents (8 percent) from last year but down 34 cents (4 percent) from April 2004. Hired field workers were paid an average wage of \$7.91 per hour compared with \$7.27 last year. Hired livestock workers averaged \$7.89 per hour compared with \$7.41 last year.

UNITED STATES: There were 1,293,000 hired workers on the Nation’s farms and ranches during the week of July 11-17, 2004, up 2 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 953,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 340,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.10 per hour during the July 2004 reference week, up 22 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.42 per hour, up 25 cents from last July, while livestock workers earned \$8.75 per hour, up 18 cents from a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.50 per hour, was up 24 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked by hired workers averaged 39.3 hours during the survey week, down 1 percent from a year ago.



COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, JULY 2003 AND 2004, Wyoming and U.S.										
SPECIES	WYOMING					UNITED STATES				
	Number of Head		Total Liveweight			Number of Head		Total Liveweight		
	July 2003	July 2004	July 2003	July 2004	% 04/03	July 2003	July 2004	July 2003	July 2004	% 04/03
			1,000 Pounds					1,000 Pounds		
Cattle	700	700	791	815	103	3,290,200	2,787,300	4,030,318	3,452,850	86
Hogs	600	300	142	75	53	8,116,100	8,094,800	2,129,775	2,120,793	100
Sheep & Lambs	100	100	20	21	105	239,800	220,800	31,303	28,330	91



Farm Wage Rates by Type of Worker, Regions and U.S., July 11-17, 2004 1/				
Region	Hired Workers			
	Type of Worker			
	Field	Lvstk	Fld & Lvstk Combined	All Hired Workers
	Dollars per hour			
Mntn I 2/	7.91	7.89	7.90	8.23
Mntn II 3/	8.63	9.39	8.90	9.47
No Plns 4/	8.24	9.22	8.52	8.86
U.S. 5/	8.42	8.75	8.50	9.10

1/ Excludes Ag Service Workers
2/ Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming
3/ Colorado, Nevada and Utah

4/ Kansas, Nebraska, North & South Dakota
5/ Excludes Alaska